

Amendment
Serial No. 10/507,481
Attorney Docket No. 042778

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claims 1, 4, and 9 have been amended to recite that the center wavelengths are in the ranges as recited in these claims.

Also, new claims 18-20 have been added. Support for the added recitations is found in the original application, in particular in Examples 6-8.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is the only independent claim.

In the Office Action, the specification is objected to. It is alleged that continuation information should be included and that the title is not descriptive.

The title has been amended as requested in the Office Action.

However, the objection regarding continuation information is respectfully traversed. This application is not a "continuation application" under section 120 of a previous application, but a national stage under section 371 of international application No. PCT/JP03/02985. Accordingly, no continuation information is required.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the objections should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 1, 10-14, and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over JP 2001-124918 to Tei et al. ("Tei") in view of JP 06-301030 to Yojiro et al. ("Yojiro").

Further, claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Tei in view of Yojiro and further in view of EP 0864905A to Keiji et al. ("Keiji"), claims 3-9 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Tei in view of Yojiro and further in view of US 6,307,604 to Hikmet et al. (“Hikmet”), and claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Tei in view of Yojiro and further in view of US 6,666,944 to Fukushima (“Fukushima”).

It is alleged in the Office Action that Tei discloses a liquid crystal cell, a bandpass filter, and a backlight, and Yojiro discloses a bandpass filter that transmits blue, green, and red light as in the present invention and raises brightness and color purity, so that it would have been obvious to use the bandpass filter of Yojiro in the device of Tei.

The rejections are respectfully traversed. Yojiro states that its bandpass filter 5 of Yojiro has wavelength “fields” at 440-480 nm (blue), 520-560 nm (green), and 610-650 nm (red) (see Yojiro at para. [0031]). However, these ranges correspond to the wavelength range for each color, not to a range for selecting the center wavelength. In other words, the ranges indicated by Yojiro correspond to center wavelengths at approximately 460 nm (blue), 540 nm (green), and 630 nm (red).

Specifically, Yojiro shows spectra peaks with a rectangular profile instead of the usual rounded profile. However, the center of the wavelength range of such profile is a center wavelength. Since the value corresponding to the center wavelength is different in Yojiro from the value as required in the present invention, the color ranges of Yojiro would be expected to resemble those of the prior art as illustrated in Fig. 7 of the present application.

In summary, the bandpass filter 5 of Yojiro does not meet the requirements of the present invention of center wavelengths in the ranges 400-440 nm (blue), 520-530 (green), and 620-640

nm (red), as recited in the present claims. Further, the other references fail to remedy this deficiency of Yojiro. Therefore, the present claims are not obvious over the cited references taken alone or in any combination.

Further, with respect to the dependent claims, the combined features of these claims are not taught or suggested in the cited references taken alone or in any combination.

In particular, with respect to claim 4, Hikmet discloses a filter having a polarizing function (using a single cholesteric layer as shown on Fig. 1) and a collimating function (using two cholesteric layers with opposed directions as shown on Fig. 2a), but these reflective polarizers are arranged with respect to a single wavelength emission lamp (see curve L on the Figures). Thus, in the multicolor displays of Figs. 4a and 4b in Hikmet, a separate filter, with one to three cholesteric layers adapted to the particular color, is provided for each color. As a result, Hikmet only suggests juxtaposing separate color filters, but does not suggest using a common reflective polarizer on the backlight side, and a lamination of cholesteric layers adapted to each particular color. Therefore, claim 4 is not obvious over Tei, Yojiro and Hikmet taken alone or in any combination.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

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If there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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